

Biography

Congressman Eliot Engel, a Democrat, represents the 17th Congressional District of New York covering areas of the Bronx and Westchester and Rockland counties. He was elected to Congress in November 1988 and is currently serving his ninth term in the House of Representatives.

Congressman Engel serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the International Relations Committee. He previously served on the Education and Labor Committee and the Banking Committee.

Congressman Engel is also a member of the Human Rights Caucus and the Hudson Valley Caucus. He chairs the Albanian Issues Caucus and is an Executive Board Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs. He also is Vice Chair of the House Democratic Task Force on Homeland Security and serves on the Democratic Task Force on Health.

Throughout his political career, Congressman Engel has been recognized as a leading supporter of public housing and better health care for New Yorkers. As a member of Congress, he wrote the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, which successfully sparked international pressure on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon, and sponsored a key resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. He is today focusing on the need to diversify the American economy away from over-reliance on oil by promoting more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient technologies.

Congressman Engel was born in the Bronx on February 18, 1947. He grew up in a city housing project and attended New York City public schools. In 1969, he graduated from Hunter-Lehman College with a B.A. in History and received a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1973 from Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York. In 1987, he received a law degree from New York Law School.

For twelve years prior to his election to Congress, Mr. Engel served in the New York State Assembly (1977-1988), where he chaired the Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, as well as the Subcommittee on Mitchell-Lama Housing. Prior to that, he was a teacher and guidance counselor in the New York City public school system.

A lifelong resident of the Bronx, Congressman Engel is married to Patricia Ennis Engel. They have three children, Julia, Jonathan and Philip.